

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 10-15 (then numbered 27-38) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite, and further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,246,320 to Monroe. The discussion of the indefiniteness rejection objected to the phrase “to reach a conclusion claim 27” as unclear, and to the claiming of wireless transmission “in a vehicle using sensors and a processor in the vehicle since the components are interconnected in the vehicle. Therefore, since the components are connected, the wireless transmission in the vehicle is unclear.” (Office Action, p. 2.) The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

It appears that claims 33-38 were mistakenly included in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as the claim does not include the phrase, “to reach a conclusion,” and does not have a base claim with any alleged “deficiencies” recited in that section of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, not be reasserted against the claims presented in this application.

Claim 1 presents elements similar to those of claim 27 in the parent application, without reference to a “conclusion”. Claim 1 of the present application uses terms with well-understood meanings in the art.

The remarks in the Office Action regarding wireless communication between components on a vehicle reflect assumptions not made in the claim (or even in the remainder of the specification). The applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to Fig. 5, which illustrates wireless communication between components on a vehicle, namely interrogator 234 and sensor units 232a-232d, as discussed in paragraphs [0032] – [0035]

of the application. Exemplary structure and operation for sensor units 232 is then discussed in paragraphs [0036] – [0037]. The rejection in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112 apparently assumes that all sensors in communication with processors on a vehicle use wired connections, but this is not necessarily the case. Applicants propose that claim 1 (and claims 2-9 depending therefrom) are in condition for allowance under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Office Action further rejected claims 27-38 of the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,320 to Monroe. In discussing that rejection, the Office Action says:

... As to claim 27, Monroe discloses a method comprising configuring one or more sensors on a vehicle collectively to detect two or more operating parameters of the vehicle (See Fig. 1 #800a-800n); wireless transmitting signals (via wireless transceiver 314; Fig. 1) representative of the two or more operating parameters from the one or more sensors to a processor (806, 808; Fig. 1). Monroe further discloses analyzing the signals with the processor to reach a conclusion (See col. 7, lines 15-56).

As to claims 28-29, Monroe discloses a diagnostic conclusion because it has fire sensors, motion sensors and an alarm condition to a nearest personnel (See col. 7, lines 23-55).

As to claim 30, Monroe discloses in Fig. 18 a vehicle management facility wherein one would inherently communicate the conclusion to the vehicle management facility.

As to claims 31-38, the limitations have been discussed and are further taught by Monroe and therefore are rejected for the same reason. (Office Action, p. 3.)

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, noting in particular that the reference does not show or suggest all elements of any pending claim. For example, claim 1 recites, “wirelessly transmitting signals representative of the two or more operating parameters [of a vehicle] to a processor on the vehicle ... .” The Monroe ‘320 reference neither

shows nor suggests transmitting such signals “to a processor on the vehicle.” While the Office Action cites sensors 800a ... 800n transmitting through transceiver 314 to ground-based router 802 (see ‘320 patent, col. 12, lines 17-27 and 56-65), ground-based packet controller 806 (col. 12, line 43), the reference neither shows nor suggests that the data is sent “to a processor on the vehicle.” Because this recited element is absent from the cited reference, the rejection of claim 27 of the parent application should not be reasserted against the present claim 1, nor against claims 2-9 depending therefrom.

Claim 10 recites, among other things, “a second number of semi-passive RF tags coupled to [] one or more sensors, where the second number is at least one; ... .” This element also is neither shown nor suggested in the Monroe ‘320 patent. The rejection of claim 33 in the previous application should not be reasserted against the present claim 10, nor against claims 11-15 depending therefrom.

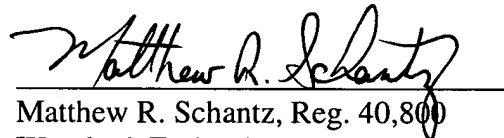
While the distinguishing features of parent claims 1 and 10 equally distinguish the claims depending therefrom over the Monroe ‘320 patent, additional limitations in claims 2-9 and 11-15 provide additional, independent reasons for finding patentability. For example, claim 2 recites that the analysis from parent claim 1 “yields a result that is indicated to an operator of the vehicle”. In contrast, the Monroe ‘320 patent does not describe the provision of any results to an operator of the vehicles described therein. Although the Office Action cited notification of alarm conditions “to a nearest personnel” at col. 7, lines 23-55, that phrase describes transmission of alarms to ground personnel, not vehicle operators. Compare the cited passage with col. 24, line 62 – col. 25, line 37. For this additional reason, the rejection of claim 2 (claim 29 in the parent application) should not be reasserted.

The claims depending from claim 10 (i.e., claims 11-15) also have their own, independent reasons for patentability. For example, claims 11 and 12 recite that there are at least two sensors and semi-passive RF tags, respectively. Since the Monroe patent does not have any number of sensors in connection with any number of semi-passive RF tags, these additional limitations also are not met.

Likewise, new claims 16-33 recite aspects of the invention that are neither shown nor suggested in the cited art.

Applicants believe that each claim presented in this continuation application is patentable over the cited art, and that the application as a whole is in condition for allowance. Timely action of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew R. Schantz", is written over a horizontal line.

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